(b) Socio-economic disparities, some local issues such as threat of eviction from forest areas, lack of development, backwardness and inadequate/ineffective mechanisms for redressal of public grievances are some of the reasons, which are exploited by the naxalites in spreading their activities.

(c) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxalite groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of para military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Letters written by MPs TO NDMC officers

1810. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letters written by the MPs and the Ministers to the Chairperson and Secretary of N.D.M.C. are neither responded with a reply nor even acknowledged;

(b) what are the rules in this regard and whether Government would direct these officers to at least show courtesy and reply to their letters; and

(c) the number of letters received by these officers from the MPs and Ministers during the period from 1st June, 2004 to 31st May, 2005 and whether they were adequately replied to and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council has informed that all letters received from the Hon'ble Membes of Parliament and the Hon'ble Ministers are properly acknowledged and necessary action is taken on the matters referred therein and suitable replies are given.

(c) During the period 1st June, 2004 to 31st May, 2005 around 658 references were received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Hon'ble Ministers. Most of these references except 114 have been replied so far.

Illicit drug trade in Punjab

1811. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual revenue from illicit drug trade in Punjab has been running into crores of rupees for the last several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that seizures made by security forces including Punjab Police and Narcotics Control Bureau represent only a miniscule of the quantum of illicit trade whose volume in terms of money is double the size of official budget of Punjab State; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The State of Punjab sharing its borders with Pakistan is vulnerable to drug trafficking. The drug trafficking being a clandestine and illegal activity, no accurate estimate of the volume of trade or illegal revenue generated out of the same can be made.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to combat illicit drug trafficking in the country. These include:

1. Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices, etc;
2. Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.
3. Improved co-ordination between various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.
4. Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.
5. Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of precursor chemicals.